

Human trafficking is a hidden crime.

These victims are not willing participants in prostitution. These women, men, girls, and boys are being held against their will, caught in a life of drug addiction, physical abuse, and sexual assault. Children cannot be prostitutes. Children cannot consent to sex. They get forced into the crime of human trafficking, they are victims not criminals.

It is estimated that at least 100,000 children are at risk for human trafficking every year in the U.S. The real number of trafficking victims is unknown.

Even if they are identified, they are constantly moved around by their traffickers, whether that's across our borders and/or around the country. Many are runaways, throwaways, or stowaways. Imagine a child being considered a throwaway or a child that no one is looking for. This is reality for many in our country. We must be the ones to give them hope.

Victims may be afraid to come forward. They may be arrested and jailed because they are mistaken for criminal. Forgiven immigrants kidnapped and brought to the US are told their families will be harmed if they seek help.

Many victims may be suffering from Stockholm Syndrome and actually believe they are in a loving relationship with their trafficker.

Education and awareness for law enforcement and the public will help prevent trafficking and identify the victim.

Rescuing and Restoring victims must be a top priority. Trafficking victims have unique needs, different than the needs of other crime victims. They must receive specialized, trauma-informed care from those that understand this crime.

Trafficking victims are not easy victims to help. They've been through extremely terrible situations. Many have come from a life of hardship, from abusive families, and moved around from family to family in foster care. Anyone they've trusted in the past has used them and betrayed them. So, many times after they've been rescued, they run because that's what they know.

We cannot give up on these girls. They deserve to know love and trust. As a society, we must embrace them.

I've introduced the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act with Congresswoman MALONEY. This bill will ensure funding for the rescue and restoration of trafficking victims. It will ensure specialized training and care, and training for law enforcement. These services will be paid for by fines on the perpetrators. The bad guys literally pay for the crimes they have committed. What a concept!

Our bill also addresses the cause of this dastardly deed: the demand. Gone are the days of boys being boys. Those that buy sex from children are child abusers, not Johns. John is in the Bible. He's a good guy. These criminals must be punished like the child abusers that they are. They are child rapists.

During January, National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month, we recognize that we have a long road ahead of us in order to eradicate our country and our world of modern day slavery. If we have the help and work of local, state, and federal governments, wonderful anti-trafficking organizations, and just people with good hearts, I think we can put a stop to this despicable crime.

And that's just the way it is.

RECOGNIZING GEORGE STEVENS, JR. AS THE FOUNDER OF THE KENNEDY CENTER HONORS AND FOR HIS CONTRIBUTIONS TO AMERICAN FILM MAKING

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 27, 2015

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize George Stevens, Jr., an American writer, director, producer, playwright, author and founder of the American Film Institute and the Kennedy Center Honors. With an impressive, creative and innovative career spanning nearly 65 years, Stevens has contributed greatly to American filmmaking and diplomacy, and has elevated artistic standards and appreciation to new heights. It is therefore with profound gratitude for his dedication to the arts and yet sadness that December 2014 marked Stevens' last year as producer of the esteemed Kennedy Center Honors that I am speaking today.

In 1978, Stevens founded the Kennedy Center Honors, which is an annual TV special that recognizes a wide cross-section of artists who have contributed to American culture through dance, the theater, music, film and television. The Kennedy Center Honors, however, is more than just a TV special. It is the brainchild of George Stevens and it was influenced by his hero and friend, President John F. Kennedy, who said, "I look forward to an America that will honor achievement in the arts the way we honor achievement in business and statecraft." Through personal dedication and a labor of love, Stevens committed much of his adult life to the Honors, which is a significant part of his legacy and contribution to the arts.

For thirty-six years, Stevens produced the Honors and made it the premier show of American arts appreciation. In 2008, his son Michael joined him as a producer of the show and it remains one of the most highly anticipated events of the year, showcasing some of the best talents America has to offer. Last year's Honors recipients included Tom Hanks, Sting, Lily Tomlin, Patricia McBride and singer/songwriter Al Green from my home of Memphis, Tennessee. The show was an amazing celebration of these artists and a testament to Stevens' love for the arts. I was glad to be among the attendees at the historic 2014 Honors.

In 1962, former CBS Newsmen and head of the United States Information Agency (USIA) under the Kennedy Administration Edward R. Murrow reached out to Stevens to join the Agency to help inform the world about the U.S. through film. It was during this time that he formed a lasting relationship with President John F. Kennedy and his family, and began laying the foundation that transformed how American films and the arts are recognized and appreciated today. After creating nearly 300 short films for the USIA and following the President's assassination, Stevens produced the heartfelt and well-received documentary about the life of President Kennedy entitled *Years of Lightning, Day of Drums*. At the time, the National Board of Review named the documentary "one of the ten best films of the year" and in 2013, Stevens worked with Warner Bros to restore the film and release it on DVD.

George Stevens, Jr. was born no stranger to Hollywood and American filmmaking. His grandmothers and grandfather were all actors, having starred alongside Charlie Chaplin and in silent films. His father, George Stevens, Sr., was a legendary Hollywood director who made more than 50 films and earned an Oscar for directing the 1951 motion picture, *A Place in the Sun*. At age 17, the younger Stevens began working with his father reading scripts and stories for potential films, including the 1953 Western classic *Shane*, which received five Academy Award nominations, and the 1959 film version of the Pulitzer Prize winning play, *The Diary of Anne Frank*. Between 1959 and 1961, Stevens directed episodes for the television series *Peter Gunn* and *Alfred Hitchcock Presents*. In 1967, he, along with Sidney Poitier and Gregory Peck, founded the American Film Institute, which serves to preserve original prints of American films.

Stevens continues to produce some of the most important works in American culture. In 2013, he produced American editorial cartoonist Herbert Block's documentary entitled *Herblock: The Black & the White*, and in 2011, he adapted *Thurgood*, his 2006 one-man stage play about the first African-American Associate Justice of the Supreme Court, into a feature film. In 2009, he was the executive producer of the TV special *We Are One: The Obama Inaugural Celebration at the Lincoln Memorial*.

Stevens is an American icon whose dedication to the arts is unwavering. He has won 13 Emmys, two Peabody Awards for Meritorious Service to Broadcasting, eight Writers Guild of America awards, the Christopher Award and The Writers Guild of America's Paul Selvin award for his writings on civil rights and liberties. In 2011, President Barack Obama appointed him Co-chairman of the President's Committee on the Arts and Humanities.

George Stevens continues to serve and represent the arts community well. Because of his steadfast efforts to celebrate and promote American art, the Kennedy Center Honors is always at the top of TV ratings. I ask all of my colleagues to join me in congratulating him on more than 65 years of dedication to the arts and thirty-six years of producing the Kennedy Center Honors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. J. RANDY FORBES

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 27, 2015

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, last week I was unable to cast my vote for two important pieces of legislation. Had I been in the chamber, I would have voted YES on H.R. 161, the Natural Gas Pipeline Permitting Reform Act and YES on H.R. 7, the No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion and Abortion Insurance Full Disclosure Act. I voted to pass H.R. 7 in the 113th Congress. This crucial bill will establish a government-wide, permanent prohibition on the funding of abortion, ensuring that no program or agency is exempt from this safeguard. I believe that life—even in its earliest stages—deserves respect and protection. I am and always have been pro-life, and throughout my tenure in Congress will continue to be a strong advocate for the unborn.